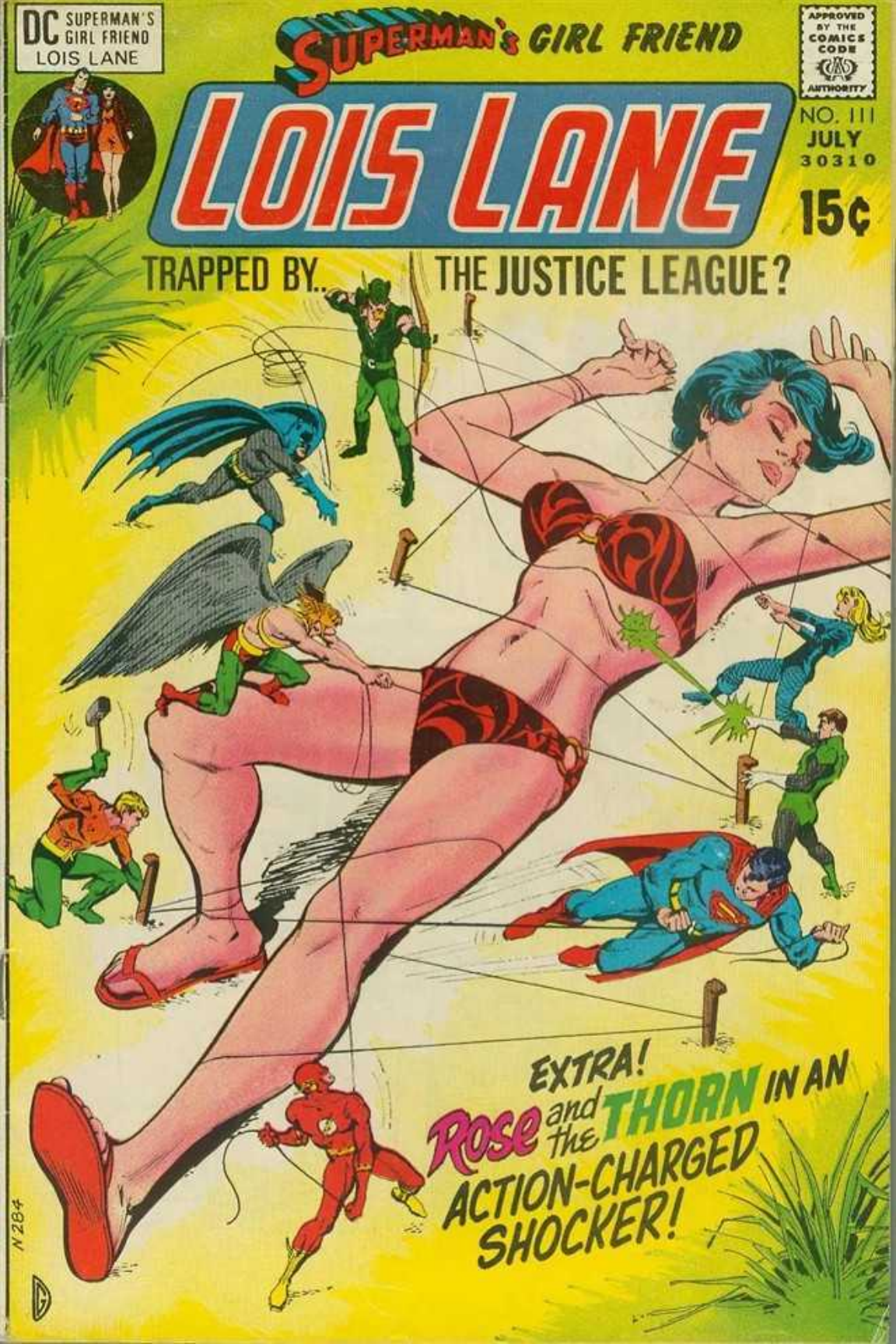
DC SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE
SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND
LOIS LANE
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 111
JULY
30310
15¢
TRAPPED BY.. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE?
EXTRA! ROSE and the THORN IN AN ACTION-CHARGED SHOCKER!

TWO GREAT HITS...

ON SALE MAY 20TH

NEW FROM

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS

ON SALE MAY 27TH

ON A BRIGHT, SUNNY SUNDAY,
SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE
ESCAPES THE RIGORS OF HER DAILY PLANET JOB...
BUT NOT THE WOLFISH WHISTLES OF ADMIRING MALES...
FTTTWOOOOO
HOW ABOUT RIDING A BIG WAVE TO CLOUD 9 WITH ME, DOLL?
I'D SURE LOVE TO BLAST-OFF WITH YOU, HONEY!
AT LAST I'VE FOUND AN ISOLATED BEACH WHERE I CAN DREAM ABOUT SUPERMAN... IN PRIVATE!
THE WARM SUN AND WHISPERING WAVES LULL LOIS INTO A DEEP SLEEP...UNAWARE THAT SHE IS RINGED BY A SATANIC CIRCLE OF THE WORLD'S MOST CELEBRATED GROUP!
SHE'S IN DREAMLAND... AT OUR MERCY!
DON'T WASTE TIME LEERING AT HER, SUPERMAN! WE'VE A LOT TO DO!
IS LOVELY LOIS HAVING A NIGHTMARE? ARE WE BEING DRAWN INTO ITS WILD WEB? OR IS THIS BLOOD-CHILLING REALITY...REVEALING THE DARK SIDE OF THE FAMOUS JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA?

SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE, No. 111, July, 1971. Published monthly, with the exception of May, June and Dec. by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. E. Nelson Bridwell, Editor; Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director; Sol Harrison, Production Manager; Ed Lobaczee, Circulation Director; Second Class Postage Paid at Sparta, Ill. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1971. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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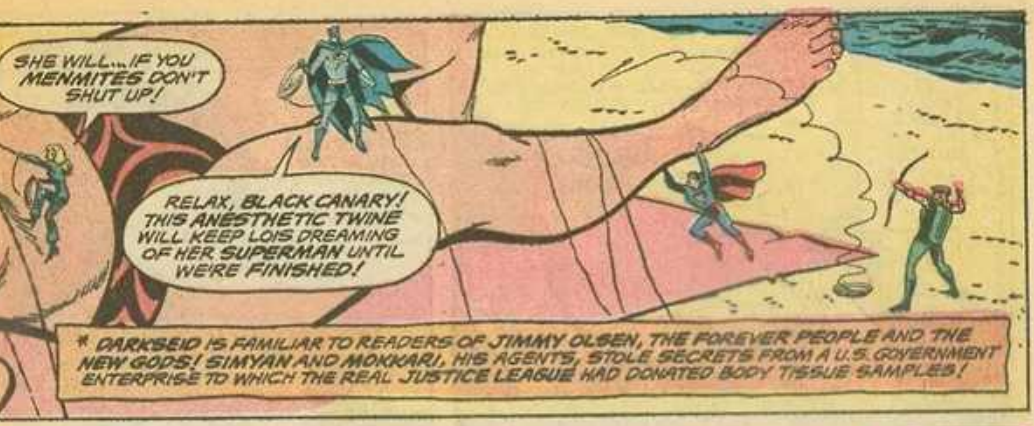
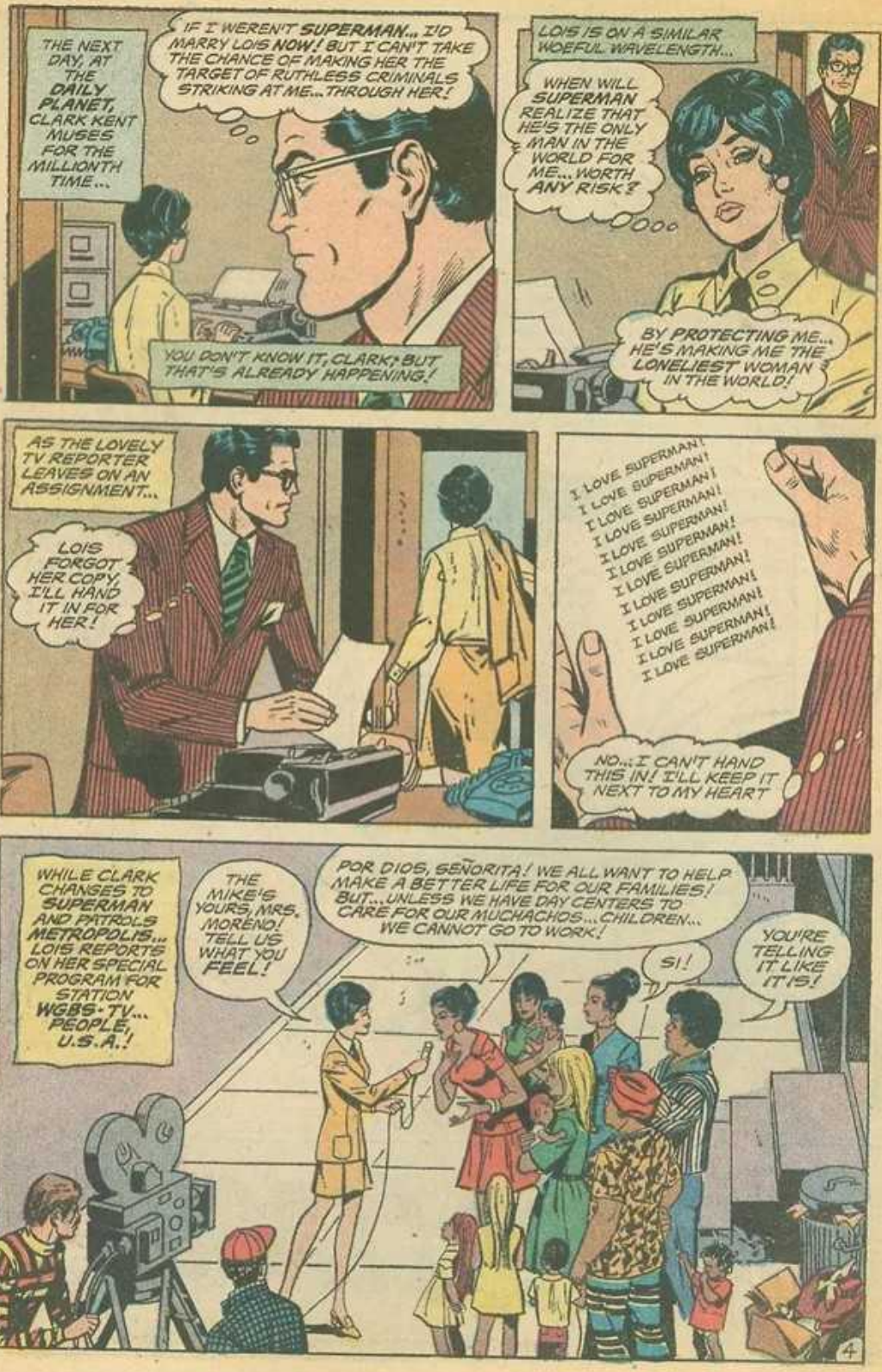
THE STAGGERING TRUTH IS THAT THE UNWARY LOIS, LIKE A SLEEPING GULLIVER, IS THE TARGET OF A LILLIPUTIAN JLA... CREATED FROM STOLEN CELLS BY AGENTS OF THE DIABOLICAL DARKSEID, OF THE PLANET APOKOLIPS!*
THE ATOM WOULD HAVE LOVED THIS MISSION... IF SIMYAN AND MOKKARI HADN'T SENT HIM TO INFILTRATE THE PENTAGON!
SHHH... HAWKMAN! IS LOIS STIRRING?
WE'LL "HIDE" THE MEANS FOR SUPERMAN'S DESTRUCTION RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN! ON LOIS' LIPS!
I'LL MELT LOIS' BONDS WITH MY HEAT VISION!
SSSSSSSSSS
MMMMMMMMM...
LOIS IS STIRRING!
"THE DARK SIDE
SCRIPT: ROBERT KANIGHER
PENCILS: WERNER ROTH
INKS: VINCE COLLETTA
2


SHE WILL...IF YOU MENMITES DON'T SHUT UP!
RELAX, BLACK CANARY! THIS ANESTHETIC TWINE WILL KEEP LOIS DREAMING OF HER SUPERMAN UNTIL WE'RE FINISHED!
* DARKSEID IS FAMILIAR TO READERS OF JIMMY OLSEN, THE FOREVER PEOPLE AND THE NEW GODS! SIMYAN AND MOKKARI, HIS AGENTS, STOLE SECRETS FROM A U.S. GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE TO WHICH THE REAL JUSTICE LEAGUE HAD DONATED BODY TISSUE SAMPLES!

WE FOLLOWED DARKSEID'S DIRECTIVES TO DESTROY OUR PRIMARY TARGET... SUPERMAN!
LOIS IS NOW SUPERMAN'S NEMESIS!
NO POWER OF EARTH CAN PREVENT THE MAN OF STEEL ENDING UP AS HUMAN SCRAP NOW!
IN A "JUNKYARD" OF HEROES SOON TO CONTAIN ALL OF THE REAL JLA!

OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!"


THE NEXT DAY, AT THE DAILY PLANET, CLARK KENT MUSES FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME...
IF I WEREN'T SUPERMAN... I'D MARRY LOIS NOW! BUT I CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF MAKING HER THE TARGET OF RUTHLESS CRIMINALS STRIKING AT ME... THROUGH HER!
YOU DON'T KNOW IT, CLARK; BUT THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENING!
LOIS IS ON A SIMILAR WOEFUL WAVELENGTH...
WHEN WILL SUPERMAN REALIZE THAT HE'S THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD FOR ME... WORTH ANY RISK?
BY PROTECTING ME... HE'S MAKING ME THE LONELIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD!
AS THE LOVELY TV REPORTER LEAVES ON AN ASSIGNMENT...
LOIS FORGOT HER COPY, I'LL HAND IT IN FOR HER!
I LOVE SUPERMAN!
NO... I CAN'T HAND THIS IN! I'LL KEEP IT NEXT TO MY HEART
WHILE CLARK CHANGES TO SUPERMAN AND PATROLS METROPOLIS... LOIS REPORTS ON HER SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR STATION WGBS-TV... PEOPLE, U.S.A.!
THE MIKE'S YOURS, MRS. MORENO! TELL US WHAT YOU FEEL!
POR DIOS, SEÑORITA! WE ALL WANT TO HELP MAKE A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR FAMILIES! BUT... UNLESS WE HAVE DAY CENTERS TO CARE FOR OUR MUCHACHOS... CHILDREN... WE CANNOT GO TO WORK!
SI!
YOU'RE TELLING IT LIKE IT IS!

AT THAT MOMENT...
YOU'RE DOING A GOOD JOB, LOIS!
LOIS... DON'T YOU HEAR ME? WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
THAT ARMORED TRUCK!

SUPERMAN... THAT TRUCK'S FILLED WITH CRIMINALS!
CRIMINALS? YOU MUST BE PUTTING ME ON, LOIS!
WAIT! WHY CAN'T I SEE THROUGH THE TRUCK WITH MY X-RAY VISION? IT MUST BE LEAD-LINED!

RIPPING BACK THE METAL ROOF LIKE IT WAS A SARDINE CAN COVER...
LOIS WAS RIGHT! BUT HOW DID SHE KNOW?
THE BIG MAN AT INTER-GANG* FLIPPED WHEN HE SAID SUPERMAN WOULD NEVER SPOT US! BURN HIM!
RRRRIIIIPP
POW-POW-
KPOW-
POW-POW
*INTER-GANG! THE INTERNATIONAL CRIME SYNDICATE SECRETLY CONTROLLED BY DARKSEID!

AS BULLETS BOUNCE OFF THE PALM OF STEEL AND RICOCHET BACK AT THE GUNMEN LIKE BLAZING FIREFLIES...
YEOWWW...! WE CAN'T FIRE AT SUPERMAN WITHOUT TURNIN' OURSELVES INTO TARGETS!
VIP VIP...
PANGGG
BEEEOW
ZINNNG
RIGHT! IF YOU WANT TO COOL IT... DROP YOUR GUNS... AND COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

AS POLICE LEAD THE DAZED GANG AWAY...
LOIS... HOW COULD YOU SEE THROUGH LEAD... WHEN I FAILED WITH MY X-RAY VISION? HAVE YOU SUDDENLY DEVELOPED E.S.P.?
I... I DON'T KNOW, SUPERMAN! MAYBE IT'S JUST WOMAN'S INTUITION! I SENSED THE GANG'S PRESENCE... SOMEHOW!
POLICE
HOW ABOUT YOU AND ME ANNOUNCING OUR ENGAGEMENT ON PEOPLE, U.S.A.? A KISS WILL MAKE IT OFFICIAL!
I MAY BE A SUPERMAN... BUT I'M HUNGRY FOR COMPANIONSHIP... FOR THE TOUCH OF ANOTHER HUMAN WHEN NIGHT FALLS!
MAYBE LOIS HAS DEVELOPED A SIXTH SENSE WHICH WOULD DETECT MY ENEMIES BEFORE THEY COULD THREATEN HER! I COULD MARRY HER THEN... WITHOUT WORRYING!
WHAT AM I THINKING? I CAN'T RISK LOIS' LIFE! HER DETECTION OF THE GANG WAS A MILLION-TO-ONE COINCIDENCE!
WE WERE SO CLOSE...
DO NOT WEEP, SEÑORITA! SUPERMAN WILL RETURN!
DRY YOUR TEARS, HONEY! HE CAN'T FLY FAR BEFORE THAT STRING BETWEEN YOUR HEART AND HIS SNAPS HIM RIGHT BACK TO YOU!

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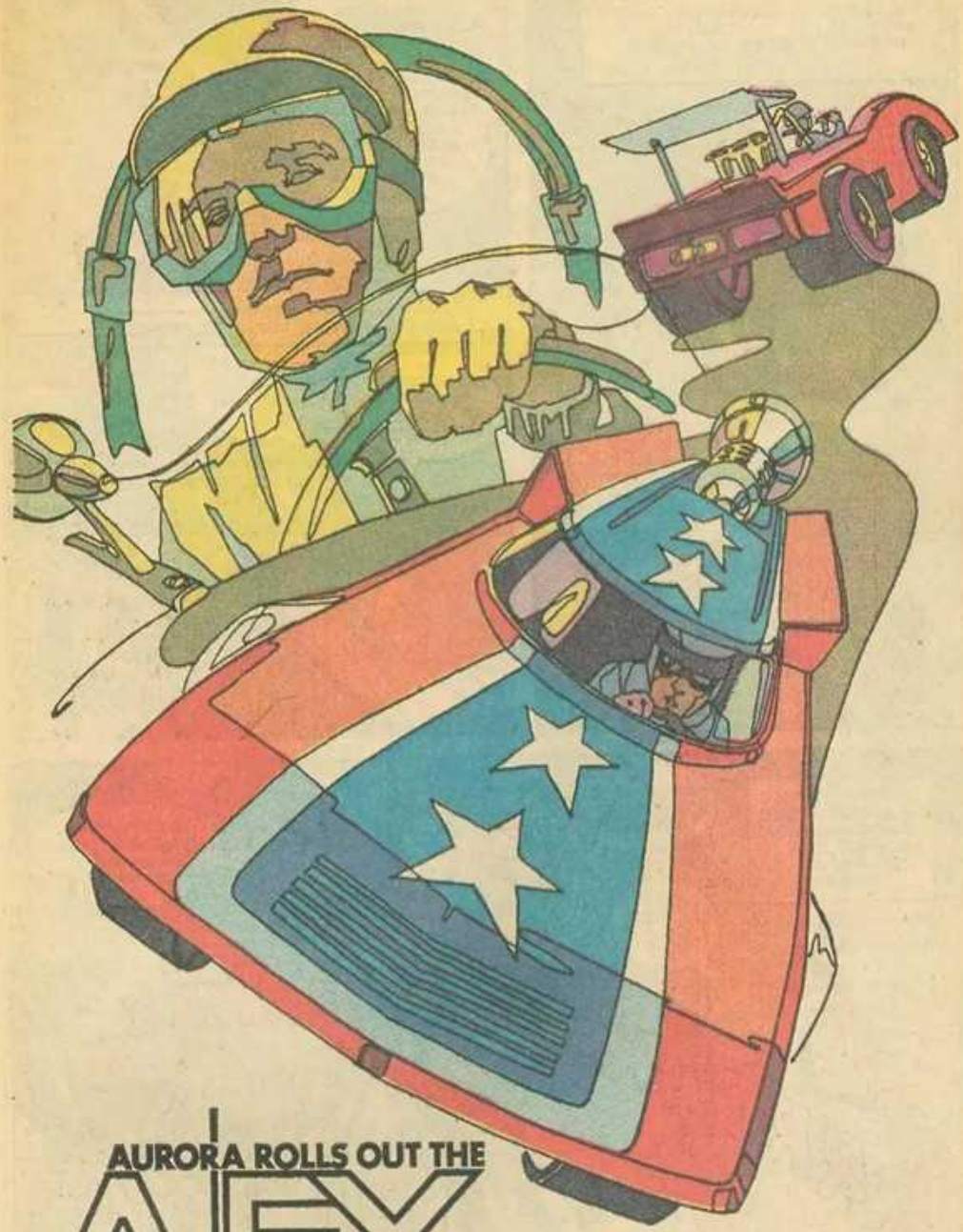

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THE NEXT DAY, THE GRIEVING LOIS TAKES HER UNIT TO A SECTION OF METROPOLIS PARK, TEMPORARILY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC...
GET A LONGSHOT OF THIS ANONYMOUS DONATION OF WILD ANIMAL STATUES... THEN MOVE CLOSER!
IF STEPS ARE NOT TAKEN TO PRESERVE OUR VANISHING WILDLIFE, THAT'S ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SEE OF THE ANIMAL WORLD-- LIFELESS STATUES! ...LOIS LANE-- PEOPLE-- U.S.A.!
REMAINING AFTER THE UNIT DEPARTS...
SUPERMAN! BEWARE OF THOSE STATUES!
POOR LOIS! OVERWORK'S MAKING HER FLIP!
UNEXPECTEDLY, THE MAN OF STEEL FINDS HIMSELF GRIPPED BY A TABLEAU OF TERROR!
SUPERMAN... I WARNED YOU!...
I'VE GOT TO HELP YOU!
DON'T, LOIS! RUN! THE STATUES HAVE COME ALIVE!
RRROAR
RRRRR
7

FOR A WILD, CHAOTIC INSTANT...
METROPOLIS PARK TURNS INTO A SAVAGE JUNGLE OF RENDING BEASTS TOYING WITH THE MAN OF STEEL...
IT'S A NIGHTMARE! SUPERMAN'S BEING TOSSED FROM ONE FRENZIED CREATURE TO ANOTHER! LIKE A HELPLESS RAG DOLL! HOW CAN IT BE ?
SSWISH...
RRR
WHUMPP...
ROAR
KRAACKK...
RRR
IF THIS IS THE END... I'M GLAD I'M WITH SUPERMAN-- TO THE LAST MOMENT!
SUPERMAN'S RECOVERY HAS THE IMPACT OF A CYCLONE...
POWWWWWW...
THE STATUES... NEVER WERE REAL! THEY'RE MECHANICAL! RAGING ROBOTS!
CONTINUED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING
8

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NO INTEREST • NO CARRYING CHARGE

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AMID THE WELTER OF WRECKAGE...
LOIS... HOW DID YOU KNOW THESE STATUES WERE BOOBYTRAPPED? WITH ME AS THEIR TARGET?
I... I DON'T KNOW, SUPERMAN! SOME STRANGE... FORCE... INSIDE ME... LITERALLY COMPELLED ME TO WARN YOU!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'VE BECOME A HUMAN GEIGER COUNTER! NOTHING CAN THREATEN YOU... WITHOUT YOU BEING ABLE TO WARN ME IN ADVANCE!
NOW... WE CAN GET MARRIED! MMMMMM...
SUPERMAN... WH-WHAT IS IT?
AHHHHHHHHH...
SOBBING, LOIS RUNS AFTER THE HOWLING FIGURE SCARCELY RECOGNIZABLE AS THE GENTLE MAN OF STEEL...
AHHHHHHHHH...
TH-THE TOUCH OF MY LIPS... SEEMS TO HAVE DRIVEN SUPERMAN MAD!
SMAASH
CAROUSEL

STUMBLING TO HER CAR, THE DISTRAUGHT LOIS CALLS A TOP-SECRET NUMBER ON HER CAR-PHONE...

HELLO! IS THIS THE PROJECT?*
THIS IS LOIS LANE! I KNOW I WAS INSTRUCTED NOT TO CONTACT YOU... SINCE SUPERMAN TOOK ME WITH HIM TO YOUR COMPLEX... TO DONATE SAMPLES OF MY BODY TISSUE! B-BUT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED...!

*THE PROJECT... THE SECRET GOVERNMENT COMPLEX WHERE THE GENETIC CODE HAS BEEN BROKEN... AND HUMAN LIFE IS GROWN IN LABORATORIES... AS TOLD IN JIMMY OLSEN!

ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE... AN OLYMPIAN MIND WORKS WITH COMPUTER-SPEED...
THIS IS EVIDENTLY A PLOT AGAINST SUPERMAN! USING YOUR LIPS AS THE INSTRUMENT OF HIS DESTRUCTION!
RETURN TO THE DAILY PLANET! WAIT FOR A PACKAGE AND INSTRUCTIONS FROM US!

THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT LOIS WAITS... UNTIL SHE IS ALONE IN THE DESERTED NEWSPAPER OFFICE... HER EYES CLOSE IN FATIGUE... SHE DOZES FITFULLY...

VAGUE SOUNDS LANCE THROUGH HER SLEEP... UNTIL... HER EYES OPEN WITH UTTER DISBELIEF...
I... I MUST BE HAVING ANOTHER NIGHTMARE... AFTER THAT MADDENING KISS I GAVE SUPERMAN!

NO, LOIS IT'S TRUE!
SOME OF SUPERMAN'S CELLS, WHICH OUR MASTERS STOLE FROM THE PROJECT, WERE MADE INTO A LIQUID EXTRACT!
WHEN YOU FELL ASLEEP AT THE BEACH, THE DORMANT EXTRACT WAS DROPPED ONTO YOUR LIPS!
THEY FLARED TO LIFE WHEN YOU KISSED SUPERMAN!
BY REMOTE KINETIC CONTROL, OUR MASTERS PROJECTED TO YOUR BRAIN MENTAL IMAGES OF THE GANG AND THE ANIMAL ROBOTS...TO GET SUPERMAN TO KISS YOU! NOW WE'VE COME TO FINISH YOU!
THIS BAG ISN'T MINE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN LEFT HERE BY SOMEONE FROM THE PROJECT WHILE I DOZED!
MY INSTRUCTIONS ARE IN THIS BAG! I'VE GOT TO ESCAPE FROM THIS JEERING, LOONEY JLA LONG ENOUGH TO READ THEM! AND FIND OUT HOW I CAN HELP POOR SUPERMAN!
BUT, AS THE HARRIED LOIS RUSHES INTO THE BASEMENT, SHE IS HURLED SPRAWLING...
HAWKMAN, GREEN LANTERN AND I FLEW OUR LITTLE "UNWELCOME COMMITTEE" HERE TO MEET YOU!
HA HA HA HA HA!
OHHH...?
PLEASANT TRIP!
11

SUDDENLY, FROM THE OPENED BAG...
LOIS LANE...THIS IS A RECORDING! THE PROJECT HAS FASHIONED MINIATURE LOIS LANES OUT OF THE TISSUE YOU DONATED TO OUR CELLBANK... UNIQUELY DESIGNED TO BATTLE ANY CONCEIVABLE THREAT AGAINST YOU!
IT'S AN ARMY... OF MINI-ME'S!
MY HEAT VISION WILL PUT YOU ON THE GRIDDLE!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME? I'M... LOSING MY SUPER-POWERS!
YES... PERMANENTLY... BECAUSE OF THE SPECK'S OF GOLD KRYPTONITE IN MY EARRINGS!*
* THOUGH ALL GREEN K ON EARTH HAS BEEN TURNED TO HARMLESS IRON, SOME GOLD K IS STILL AROUND...
IN THE ENSUING MINIATURE MELEE, THE MINUTE LOIS LANES WREAK MAYHEM ON THE EVIL JLA...
MY KARATE FAILED AGAINST YOU...
I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN KLURKOR--KRYPTONIAN KARATE!
MY POWER RING... IT DIDN'T STOP THAT BLOW!
PARDON MY YELLOW GLOVE! YOUR DUPLICATE OF GREEN LANTERN'S RING IS POWERLESS AGAINST ANYTHING YELLOW!
BEGINNING IN JUNE YOU WILL SEE THE DARING, THE DIFFERENT AND THE NEW!
12

I CAN'T LAST MORE THAN AN HOUR OUT OF WATER... MUST GET TO IT...
SORRY... I'M DUMPING YOU INTO THE ASH CAN!
MY ANTI-GRAVITY BELT...
I'LL CLIMB UP, AND...
SLICED BY MY LASER BEAM!
COME BACK... AND JOIN THE PARTY!
I'M PINNED!
THESE ARE JUST AS GOOD AS YOUR ARROWS!

CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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the Lion grows a long-flowing mane.

JIFFY
the Rabbit grows long, Perky ears.

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the Hound Dog grows sad, droopy ears

SMILEY
the Porcupine grows needles of quills.

SCAMPER
the Squirrel grows a big, bushy tail.

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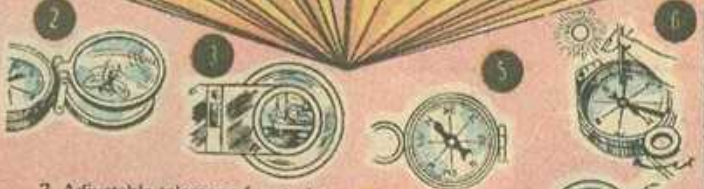

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USE LUCKY CLOVER CLUB COUPON

WITH THE INFAMOUS JLA SUBDUED...
LOIS LANE...THIS IS A RECORDING! THE PROJECT HAS MADE A LIPSTICK OUT OF SUPERMAN'S CELLS! PUT IT ON YOUR LIPS! KISS HIM!
IT SHOULD BATTLE THE MALIGNANT CELLS AND RESTORE HIM TO HIS SENSES!
BUT WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO TEST THE SUBSTANCE YET! IF IT FAILS...YOU MAY LOSE YOU LIFE!
TREMBLING IN EVERY FIBRE, LOIS SEEKS THE RAMPAGING MAN OF MIGHT IN METROPOLIS PARK.... UNTIL...
AHHHHHHHH...
SUPERMAN... BURSTING THROUGH SOLID STONE!
CRAAAACK...
IF THIS IS MY LAST KISS... I WANT IT TO BE YOURS!
SUPERMAN! WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME LIKE THAT? DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
OF COURSE, LOIS! BUT-- MY MIND'S A BLANK! I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING THAT HAPPENED FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU INTERVIEWING THE MOTHERS IN THE SLUM NEIGHBORHOOD!
DON'T WORRY, SUPERMAN! IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU!
IF IT DOESN'T... I'LL HAVE TO START IN ALL OVER TO PERSUADE HIM TO MARRY ME!
14

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SEA-MONKEYS

JUST ADD WATER—CREATE *INSTANT LIFE*

REAL magic begins in your very own home with adorable LIVE SEA-MONKEYS — nature's GREATEST miracle. Imagine! They LIVE up to 100 YEARS in incredible TIME-CAPSULE SEA-EGGS, yet hatch ALIVE in only ONE SECOND while you and your friends watch in utter amazement! And, these adorable pets give as much FUN as a cage of friendly JUNGLE MONKEYS!

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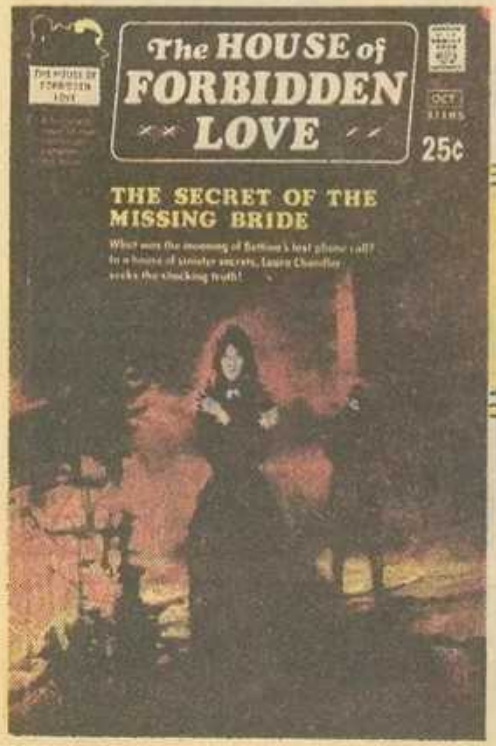

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ROSE and the THORN in... LAW OF THE 100!

EDITOR: ENELSON BRIDWELL
WRITER: ROBERT KANIGHER
ARTIST: GRAY MORROW

NO. 1 TARGET OF THE 100, INTERNATIONAL CENTIPEDE OF CRIME, IS THE ELUSIVE, ENIGMATIC SIREN OF THE SHADOWS — THE THORN! FEARLESS HUNTRESS OF EVIL — A SWORN ENEMY OF THE INFAMOUS CRIME SYNDICATE WHICH MURDERED HER DETECTIVE FATHER — THE OBSESSED BEAUTY IS ALWAYS JUST A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM AN ASSASSIN'S BULLET...

THE SEARING SHOTS SLOWLY FADE IN THE 100'S TRAINING GROUND OF TERROR....
GUNNING DOWN THE THORN MANNEQUIN GRADUATES YOU, LEO! YOU'VE PROVED BY EVERY TEST THAT YOU CAN BURN DOWN THE REAL THORN!
LEO'S A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK!
HE'S EVEN FASTER'N HIS OLD MAN!
IN THE CRIME SYNDICATE'S GALLERY OF GUNMEN...
YOUR FATHER WAS TOPS, LEO! DON'T SHAME HIS MEMORY!
PLANET
LEO (THE LYNX) LESTER, 100'S TOP EXECUTIONER, MEETS END!
I WON'T!
HERE'S HIS GUN! HE NEVER MISSED! HE'D STILL BE NO. 1 -- IF A FINK HADN'T BETRAYED HIM TO THE FUZZ! HIT THE THORN -- AND YOU'LL BE NO. 1!
I WON'T FAIL!
THAT NIGHT... AS THE THORN CEASELESSLY ROAMS THE SINISTER STREETS OF METROPOLIS... HER BRAIN SEARED BY RELENTLESS MEMORIES...
I CANNOT REST... UNTIL MY MURDERERS ARE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!.... AVENGE ME!.. AVENGE ME!... AVENGE ME!
I WILL, DAD! I WILL--!
2

IN THE MIDST OF THE BALEFUL BEAUTY'S VOW... HER INSTINCTS ALERT HER TO ANOTHER AVENGER...
FROM HER BELTED THORN-ARSENAL SHE PLUCKS A MINIATURE MISSILE...
SMOKE CAN'T STOP LEAD, THORN! YOU'RE FINISHED! THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE! NO TRANSFER!
HUHNN--?
I TOOK A DETOUR--WHILE YOU WERE FIRING AT SMOKE, KILLER!
WHY--YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A KID! SINCE WHEN HAS THE 100 SENT A BOY TO DO A MAN'S JOB?
MY GUN MAKES ME A MAN--TEN FEET TALL! IF I GET MY HANDS ON IT--I'LL PROVE THAT!
THE WILD WRAITH'S BLAZING EYES COOL AT THE SIGHT OF HER WOULD-BE EXECUTIONER...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST ME, SON?
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID! I'M A MAN! BETTER SCRAM BEFORE THE 100 CUTS YOU DOWN TO SPRING ME--LEO THE LYNX'S SON!
SNAPPING THORN-HANDCUFFS ON HER CAPTIVE'S WRISTS.
THE 100 MUST HAVE BRAINWASHED YOU INTO BUYING THAT MYTH ABOUT GANGLAND LOYALTY! THE PENALTY FOR BOTCHING A CONTRACT IS DEATH! AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS!
YOU'RE FLIPPING, THORN! THE 100 RESPECTS ME! THEY'VE GOT MY DAD'S PICTURE IN THEIR GALLERY!
RUMBLING ALONG THE DESERTED STREET... A CAPERING CAROUSEL...
DOWN-- LEO-- QUICK!
YOU CRAZY? THAT'S NOTHING BUT A MERRY-GO-ROUND!
MOUNTED ON THE TOY HORSES--SINISTER "STATUES" LEER THROUGH THEIR CAMOUFLAGE... BLAZING SHOTS SEAR THE NIGHT...
THE KID FAILED! BUT HE DECOYED THORN OUT IN THE OPEN!
DRILL 'EM BOTH!

LIKE LIGHTNING, THORN HURLS ANOTHER WEAPON FROM HER BARBED ARSENAL....
...TOPPLING OVER FROM THE MINIATURE BLAST OF THE CONCUSSION-THORN....

NOW--DO YOU BELIEVE ME? THOSE HOODS WERE SHADOWING YOU! ORDERED TO KILL YOU IF YOU BLEW THE ASSIGNMENT! THE IOO HAS NO LOYALTY--ONLY MERCILESS PUNISHMENT FOR FAILURE!

YOU'RE LYIN'! THEY WERE BACKIN' ME UP! THEY WERE SHOOTIN' AT YOU--NOT ME! IF I WAS FREE--I'D PROVE IT!

UNSEEN BY THE REBELLIOUS YOUTH--ANGER AND PITY EBB AND FLOW LIKE WAVES ACROSS THE THORN'S FACE...AWAKENING THE DUAL SIDE OF HER NATURE, THE GENTLE ROSE FORREST SHINING MOMENTARILY THROUGH THE FLORAL FURY'S EYES, ONLY TO FADE BACK...INTO SCHIZOID SLUMBER....
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
5

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AT THE SCREECHING APPROACH OF A POLICE CAR....
LOOKS LIKE THE THORN MADE QUITE A DENT IN THE 100 DETECTIVE STONE!
THAT KID WITH HER IS THE IMAGE OF LEO THE LYNX! AFTER WE HANDCUFF THE HOODS--I'LL FIND OUT ABOUT HIM!
METROPOL POLIC
IF I LET LEO GO--HE'LL STILL BE A TARGET FOR THE 100! IF I DON'T--I'LL HAVE TO HAND HIM OVER TO THE POLICE!
IN EITHER CASE--I WON'T FIND OUT THE REAL REASON HE HUNTED ME! I DON'T THINK HE'S TOLD ME EVERYTHING!
THORN--YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE GOING TO GET AWAY FROM ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS--TOWING THAT KID AFTER YOU?
I'M NO KID!
THORN!...(COUGH-COUGH)...THORN?...SLIPPED AWAY... UNDER COVER OF ONE OF HER SMOKE-THORNS!... (COUGH-COUGH)
SHORTLY, IN THE TANGLED JUNGLE OF RUSTING CARS....
THE ORGANIZATION'S RIGHT! YOU'RE A KILLER--YOU'RE GOIN' TO COOL ME HERE--WITH NO WITNESSES! GO AHEAD! I WON'T BEG FOR MERCY!
6

AS THE RIVER-BORNE MISTS SWIRL AROUND...
TH-THE THORN'S GONE--INTO THIN AIR--HOW?
YOU JUST MISSED THE THORN!
NO, PUNK--YOU DID!
SAY YOUR PRAYERS! YOU'RE GONNA GET PAID OFF IN LEAD FER FAILIN' TO CHOP DOWN THE THORN! THAT'S THE LAW OF THE 100!
B-BUT MY OLD MAN WAS THE ORGANIZATION'S TOP GUN! DON'T THAT COUNT?
FOOL! THE 100 DELIVERED HIM TO THE FUZZ WHEN HE FLOPPED ON A CONTRACT!
LIKE BLINDING EXPLODING FLASH BULBS... A SHOWER OF DAZZLING THORNS...
THE PUNK FINKED! TEAMED UP WITH THE THORN! DRILL 'IM!
7

LIKE A HUMAN WHIRLWIND, THE RAGING WRAITH LASHES THE GUNMEN!
YOU WERE RIGHT, THORN! THEY WERE GOIN' TO BURN ME! THEY SENT MY POP TO THE CHAIR! I'LL KILL 'EM!
THEY ALMOST MADE A KILLER OUT OF YOU, LEO! HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON?
LET'S CUT OUT! THEY ALWAYS HAVE BACK-UP HOODS AROUND!
THORN--IF WE EVER GET OUT OF THIS-- I'LL TELL YOU THE REAL REASON I TRIED TO HIT YOU!
I KNEW THEY FORCED YOU, LEO! BUT--HOW? HOW?
YES...HOW WAS LEO FORCED TO STALK THE THORN? STUNNING REVELATIONS FOLLOW...PLUS SHATTERING ACTION...IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF LOIS LANE!
6
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JUNE 24TH

Dear Editor:

Well, surprise, surprise! *Lois Lane* #108 not only featured an excellent cover and a chilling lead story, but had a *really good* Rose and the Thorn adventure—something I didn't think possible.

It's hard to figure out why this tale in particular appealed to me, as the others have been so deadly dull. Thus far, the Thorn has been your average, run-of-the-mill heroine, but in the Feb. issue, *something happened*—something that puts this story far above the previous ones. What? Take another look—in this tale, everyone thinks the Thorn is dead, including her other self, Rose! Now, if you could keep it that way—with both the underworld and the public wondering whether they're being haunted by a vengeful wraith or a very live dare-doll—you might just have that unusual quality which would make the Thorn unique among DC heroes. But don't bring in any of your other standard characters; the presence of Superman and Lois nearly destroyed the current tale.

"The Spectre Suitor" was a shivery surprise, especially coming now, when a controversy is flaring over whether or not Britain's Duke of Clarence (Queen Victoria's grandson) could have been Jack the Ripper. The story wound its way through a startling climax (page 13—brrrr!), but I'll have to admit I guessed the identity of the ghost early on, thanks to a couple of subtle, minute clues cleverly hidden at the beginning. (And perhaps the fact that I'd just finished reading a book on the subject, *When London Walked in Terror*, by Tom Cullen.) Indeed, Cary Bates appears to have done a good deal of research on the story; his denouement to the Ripper tale fits in very nicely with the conclusions drawn by Mr. Cullen *and* the Duke of Clarence theory. Of course, there's the popular theory that ol' Jack was really someone with the initials E.N.B. . . . (Oh-oh! Forget it! Our illustrious editor may be possessed of a *rapier*-like wit and may enjoy making *cutting* remarks, but these *points* mean nothing.)

Gregory Kent, Goleta, Calif.

(You sure you're not thinking of Morgan Edge? *Seriously, Cary did do quite a bit of research—in the same book you read,* When London Walked in Terror. *But we can't agree that our ending fit the Clarence theory. He wasn't drowned, as the Ripper in our story—and Scotland Yard's chief suspect, Montague John Druitt—was. But someone's always coming up with a new Ripper theory. We even saw an article that claimed he was William E. Gladstone, Britain's Prime Minister!—E.N.B.)*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Cor! You're the type of chap who'll stick at nothing!

How do you dare to exhibit the *murderous* Jack the Ripper in the apparel of the *great* Sherlock Holmes?

Sacrilege, *sacrilege*, I say!

To think that such *genius* and *character* as Holmes had would be *blasphemed* in so horrible a fashion! You, sir, if you deserve the title, are to us who love Holmes, a Moriarty! If you would blaspheme the master sleuth, you hold nothing sacred!

Hemlock Holmes, Tampa, Fla.

(We don't swallow that Hemlock stuff. Whoever you are, you should be sure of your facts. The most reliable descriptions of Jack the Ripper describe him as wearing a deerstalker cap—which, by sheer coincidence, happens to be the very type worn traditionally by Holmes. By the way, did you know that Dr. Joseph Bell, whom Conan Doyle called the original of Holmes, tried to discover the Ripper's identity and gave his findings to Scotland Yard shortly before the murders stopped?—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Lois #108 was great. I really enjoyed it. You kept me guessing right up to when she found out who the ghost really was. I think the artwork on Lois is beautiful. I noticed that Lois was brought out perfectly in that evening dress when she greeted Superman in the apartment, and also when she stood on the hill in the storm, holding the dirk. The artist outdid himself. My compliments.

Does Batman have, or has he ever had any feeling for Lois? In an issue of J.L.A., he told Black Canary that there was only one girl he ever wanted to marry, but he couldn't. And in a *Lois* issue, when he defended her on a murder charge, I noticed the personal regard he had for her. So please tell me about this.

Terry Smith, Dayton, Ohio

(Batman regards Lois purely as a friend. We aren't sure who that mystery woman is. Some girl from his past, like Julie Madison or Linda Page? Could it be the Catwoman—or the criminal Queen Bee, whom he met in a Brave & Bold *issue? Or even Poison Ivy?—E.N.B.)*

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Lois Lane #108 was an all-around disappointment—almost.

It is unfortunate that an idea as fabulous as the one presented in "The Spectre Suitor" was disguised in so disappointing a story. The idea that I speak of is that of associating your characters with real figures of history, but not letting the readers in on it until the end of the story. You handed us many clues—"First *man* I've killed"—London's East End—83 years ago—he's a psychopath—has repossessed his dirk—all of which I missed. I hope that you will treat us to a higher quality story using this technique. It has such wide and fascinating possibilities.

Barbara Reader, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

(Sorry there wasn't room to print all your letter, Babs. You made a few good points, but we'd have to argue with you on others. We agree the formula is good—but only if it's not overdone. So we'll wait a while before springing another historical whodunnit on you.—E.N.B.)

* * * * *

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